

**As Good As It Gets** - 1997 \*

Disability: obsessive compulsive disorder

Summary: Melvin Udall (Jack Nicholson) is a cantankerous writer with obsessive compulsive disorder who softens when he meets a single mom waitress (Helen Hunt).

Oscar awards: Best actor (Nicholson), actress (Hunt)

Oscar nominations: Best picture, supporting actor (Greg Kinnear), film editing, score, screenplay

**At First Sight** - 1999\*

Disability: blind

Summary: Masseur Virgil (Val Kilmer) has been blind since age 3. He meets New York architect Amy (Mira Sorvino) who convinces him to have radical eye surgery done to restore his sight. Virgil regains his sight and must adjust to being able to see.

**A Beautiful Mind** - 2001\*

Disability: schizophrenia

Summary: Russell Crowe plays Nobel Prize-winning mathematician John Forbes Nash, who is diagnosed with schizophrenia. The movie is based on the Nash biography of the same title.

Oscar awards: Best picture, director (Ron Howard), supporting actress (Jennifer Connelly), adapted screenplay. Oscar nominations: Best actor (Crowe), film editing, makeup, score.

**Benny & Joon** - 1993

Disability: mental illness

Summary: Benny (Aidan Quinn) cares for his sister Joon (Mary Stuart Masterson), who has a mental illness. He also inherits the care of Sam (Johnny Depp), who has a personality disorder. Sam and Joon fall in love while Benny struggles to decide if he should send Joon to a group home.

**The Best Years of Our Lives** - 1946

Disability: amputee

Summary: Three veterans must adjust to civilian life after returning home from World War II. Homer Parrish (Harold Russell) lost both hands during the war and has trouble opening himself up to his family and girlfriend. Oscar awards: Best picture, director

(William Wyler), actor (Fredric March), supporting actor (Russell), film editing, music score, screenplay  
Oscar nominations: Best sound recording

**Blue Sky** - 1994

Disability: mental illness

Summary: Carly Marshall (Jessica Lange) is a free-spirited wife of an Army engineer whose mental illness interferes with her husband's career. Oscar awards: Best actress (Lange)

**The Bone Collector** - 1999

Disability: quadriplegia

Summary: Former homicide detective Lincoln Rhyme (Denzel Washington), who is paralyzed from the neck down, is preparing for assisted suicide when his former colleagues call on him for help with one more case. Lincoln must help rookie Amelia (Angelina Jolie) overcome her fears and work the crime scenes to find the killer.

**Born on the Fourth of July** - 1989

Disability: spinal cord injury

Summary: Tom Cruise portrays Ron Kovic, who had a spinal cord injury from his tour in Vietnam and later became a political activist. Oscar awards: Best director (Oliver Stone), film editing Oscar nominations: Best picture, actor (Cruise), cinematography, score, sound, adapted screenplay

**Bubble Boy** - 2001

Disability: immune deficiency

Summary: A man who was born without an immune system has lived his life in a plastic bubble. When he finds out the woman he loves is about to be married, he builds a portable bubble suit and takes off after her.

**Butterflies Are Free** - 1972

Disability: blind

Summary: Edward Albert plays Don Baker, an adult who has been blind since birth. Goldie Hawn stars as his neighbor Jill, helping Don live independently of his clinging mother.

Oscar awards: Best actress (Eileen Heckart) Oscar nominations: Best cinematography, sound

**Charly** - 1968 \*2004 version

Disability: mental retardation

Summary: Scientists inject Charly (Cliff Robertson) with a drug that takes him from someone with mental retardation to a genius. Oscar awards: Best actor (Robertson)

**Children of a Lesser God** - 1986

Disability: Deaf

Summary: Sarah Norman (Marlee Matlin) is a former student at a school for the deaf who resists a new teacher's (William Hurt) efforts to teach her to read lips and use her deaf voice.

Oscar awards: Best actress (Matlin) Oscar nominations: Best picture, actor (Hurt), supporting actress (Piper Laurie), adapted screenplay

**Coming Home** - 1978

Disability: spinal cord injury

Summary: A Vietnam veteran (John Voight) who is paralyzed from the war, falls in love with a hospital volunteer (Jane Fonda) whose husband is still in Vietnam fighting. Oscar awards: Best actor (Voight), actress (Fonda), screenplay Oscar nominations: Best picture, director (Hal Ashby), supporting actor (Bruce Dern), supporting actress (Penelope Milford), film editing

**The Doctor** - 1991

Disability: cancer

Summary: Jack McKee (William Hurt) is a successful doctor who discovers he has throat cancer. After undergoing treatment, he realizes the importance of doctors treating patients with respect and dignity.

**The Elephant Man** - 1980

Disability: proteus syndrome

Summary: Based on the true story of Victorian Englishman John Merrick, who had proteus syndrome, a disfiguring condition. With the help of his doctor Frederick Treves (Anthony Hopkins), Merrick attempts to regain his self-worth. Oscar nominations: Best actor, art direction-set decoration, costume design, director, film editing, score, picture, adapted screenplay

**Forrest Gump** - 1994

Disability: developmental disability, spinal cord injury

Summary: Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks), a man with a developmental disability, is on his way to see his lost love and tells his life story to others as he sits at a bus stop. Forrest's commander in Vietnam, Lt. Dan (Gary Sinise), has a spinal cord injury from the war. Oscar awards: Best picture, director (Robert Zemeckis), actor (Hanks), visual effects, film editing, adapted screenplay Oscar nominations: Best supporting actor (Sinise), art direction, cinematography, sound effects editing, makeup, score, sound

**Frances** - 1982

Disability: mental illness

Summary: Jessica Lange portrays Frances Farmer, an actress from the 1930s, who was institutionalized.

Oscar nominations: Best actress (Lange), supporting actress (Kim Stanley)

**Frankie Starlight** - 1995

Disability: dwarfism

Summary: Author Frank Bois (Corban Walker), who has dwarfism, looks back on his life, including his mother's attempts to get to America during World War II, her affairs, their eventual trip to America and their return to Ireland.

**Frida** - 2002

Disability: polio, mobility

Summary: Salma Hayek plays Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, who had polio as a child and sustained a back injury during a bus accident. Kahlo's physical disabilities seem to have influenced her art. Oscar nominations: Best actress (Hayek), art direction, costume design, makeup, score, song

**Girl, Interrupted** - 1999

Disability: mental illness

Summary: Susanna Kaysen (Winona Ryder) recalls her experiences as a young woman who was admitted to a mental hospital in the 1960s. Oscar awards: Best supporting actress (Angelina Jolie)

**The Horse Whisperer** - 1998 \*

Disability: amputee

Summary: A young girl (Scarlett Johansson) and her horse are injured in a riding accident and the girl's leg is amputated. The girl's mother (Kristin Scott Thomas) takes her and the horse to a man known for rehabilitating horses. Oscar nominations: Best song ("A Soft Place To Fall")

**I am Sam** - 2001 \* 2004 version

Disability: developmental

Summary: Sam (Sean Penn) must fight for the right to maintain custody of his 7-year-old daughter (Dakota Fanning). Oscar nominations: Best actor (Penn)

**If You Could See What I Hear** - 1982

Disability: blind

Summary: Based on a true story. Marc Singer plays Tom Sullivan, a successful, determined singer/piano player experiencing situations in his early adulthood without sight.

**Iris** - 2001 \*

Disability: Alzheimer's disease

Summary: British author Iris Murdoch (Judi Dench) battles Alzheimer's disease as her husband, John Bayley, (Jim Broadbent) struggles to care for her. Intermittent scenes show the beginning of the couple's long relationship. Oscar awards: Best supporting actor (Broadbent) Oscar nominations: Best actress (Dench), supporting actress (Kate Winslet)

**Johnny Belinda** - 1948

Disability: deaf

Summary: Johnny Belinda (Jane Wyman), who cannot hear or speak, is raped and tried for murder in her rural fishing town. Oscar awards: Best actress (Wyman)

Oscar nominations: Best picture, director (Jean Negulesco), actor (Lew Ayres), supporting actor (Charles Bickford), supporting actress (Agnes Moorehead), art direction, cinematography, film editing, score, sound, screenplay

**Magnificent Obsession** - 1954

Disability: blind

Summary: Helen Phillips (Jane Wyman) loses her sight after being hit by a car. The man driving (Rock Hudson) works his way into her life and they fall in love. Oscar nomination: Best actress (Wyman)

**Me, Myself and Irene** - 2000

Disability: multiple personality

Summary: A state trooper (Jim Carrey) is usually mild mannered and non-confrontational until he's pushed to far and an alter-ego comes out. Both personalities fall in love with and fight over a fugitive he's charged with escorting from Rhode Island to New York.

**The Men** - 1950

Disability: spinal cord injury

Summary: Ken (Marlon Brando) is a veteran adjusting to life with a spinal cord injury. His fiancée (Teresa Wright) still wants to marry him but hopes for cure. Oscar nominations: Best screenplay

**Men of Honor** - 2000

Disability: amputee

Summary: Cuba Gooding Jr. portrays Carl Brashear, the Navy's first African American diver who is also an amputee.

**Mercury Rising** - 1998 \*

Disability: autism

Summary: Simon Lynch (Miko Hughes), a 9-year-old with autism, manages to crack a governmental secret code. FBI agent Art Jeffries (Bruce Willis) strives to keep the boy safe from the code's developer, who is ready to kill, when his code is penetrated.

**The Miracle Woman** - 1931

Disability: blind

Summary: A man (John Carson) who lost his sight in World War I is inspired by the speeches of evangelist Florence Fallon (Barbara Stanwyck), who preaches salvation and performs phony miracles. The two meet and fall in love.

**The Miracle Woman - 1962**

Disability: blind, deaf

Summary: Anne Sullivan (Anne Bancroft), who has a vision impairment, tries to teach young Helen Keller (Patty Duke), who is deaf and blind. Oscar awards: Best actress (Bancroft), supporting actress (Duke) Oscar nominations: Best director (Arthur Penn), costume design, adapted screenplay

**Molly - 1999**

Disability: autism

Summary: Molly McKay (Elisabeth Shue) is released from an institution and undergoes an experimental medical treatment that turns her into a genius.

**My Left Foot - 1989**

Disability: cerebral palsy

Summary: Christy Brown (Daniel Day Lewis) has control of only one limb, his left foot. He learns to express himself using his left foot and becomes a painter and writer. Oscar awards: Best actor (Day-Lewis), supporting actress (Brenda Fricker) Oscar nominations: Best picture, director (Jim Sheridan), adapted screenplay

**My Life - 1993**

Disability: cancer

Summary: Bob (Michael Keaton) is diagnosed with cancer and told he has only months to live. His wife, Gail (Nicole Kidman), is pregnant with their first child. Bob begins videotaping his life so that his child will know him after he dies.

**'Night Mother - 1986**

Disability: epilepsy

Summary: Jessie Cates (Sissy Spacek) tells her mother (Anne Bancroft) one night that she is going to commit suicide by morning. Jessie, who has epilepsy and whose son is a drug addict, says she is "sick and tired of being sick and tired."

**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - 1975**

Disability: mental illness

Summary: McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) is a swaggering, boastful man who is locked up in a

mental institution, where his refusal to docilely play by the rules ends up getting him killed.

Oscar awards: Best picture, director (Milos Forman), actor (Nicholson), actress (Louise Fletcher), adapted screenplay Oscar nominations: Best supporting actor (Brad Dourif), cinematography, film editing, score

**Ordinary People - 1980**

Disability: depression

Summary: A family tries to come to terms with its grief after the death of a son. Their younger son (Timothy Hutton) experiences major depression

Oscar awards: Best picture, director (Robert Redford), supporting actor (Hutton), adapted screenplay Oscar nominations: Best actress (Mary Tyler Moore), supporting actor (Judd Hirsch)

**The Other Sister - 1999**

Disability: developmental

Summary: When Carla Tate (Juliette Lewis) finishes her training school, she seeks independence. Her wealthy family overlooks her abilities and underestimates her relationship with Danny (Giovanni Ribisi), who also has a developmental disability.

**Philadelphia - 1993**

Disability: AIDS

Summary: A high-profile lawyer with AIDS (Tom Hanks) hires a personal injury lawyer (Denzel Washington) to help sue his employer for firing him. Oscar awards: Best actor (Hanks), song ("Streets of Philadelphia") Oscar nominations: Best makeup, song ("Philadelphia"), screenplay

**Pumpkin - 2002**

Disability: developmental

Summary: Carolyn (Christina Ricci) is a snobbish college sorority girl who mentors a member of a "challenged athletes" team for a sorority service project. At first she's afraid of Pumpkin (Hank Harris), but soon she finds herself falling in love with him, shocking her friends and the family.

**Rain Man** - 1988\*

Disability: autism

Summary: Charlie Babbitt (Tom Cruise) finds out after his father dies that he has a brother, Raymond (Dustin Hoffman), who has been institutionalized throughout his life because he has autism. Oscar awards: Best picture, director (Barry Levinson), actor (Hoffman), screenplay

Oscar nominations: Best art direction, cinematography, film editing, score

**Regarding Henry** - 1991 \*

Disability: closed head injury

Summary: Lawyer Henry Turner (Harrison Ford) gets caught in the middle of a convenience store robbery and is shot, leaving him with a closed head injury. Henry does not remember former colleagues and must relearn even simple tasks such as tying his shoes.

**Return to Me** - 2000 \*

Disability: heart transplant

Summary: Grace (Minnie Driver) receives a heart transplant that saves her life. She later discovers the donor was the wife of her new boyfriend, Bob (David Duchovny).

**Scent of a Woman** - 1992 \*

Disability: blind

Summary: A retired Army lieutenant who is blind (Al Pacino) decides to spend Thanksgiving in New York City with the young man (Chris O'Donnell) who is hired as his care attendant.

Oscar awards: Best actor (Pacino) Oscar nominations: Best picture, director (Martin Brest), adapted screenplay

**Shine** - 1996 \*

Disability: mental illness

Summary: David Helfgott (Geoffrey Rush) is an Australian pianist who is mentally abused by his father and later institutionalized. Oscar awards: Best actor (Rush)

Oscar nominations: Best picture, director (Scott Hicks), supporting actor (Armin Mueller-Stahl), film editing, score, screenplay

**The Three Faces of Eve** - 1958 \*

Disability: multiple personalities

Summary: A timid housewife (Joanne Woodward) discovers she is leading the lives of two people - timid wife and mother Eve White and brash partier Eve Black. Later, a third personality emerges. Oscar awards: Best actress (Woodward)

**The Tic Code** - 1998

Disability: Tourette syndrome

Summary: A 10-year-old who wants to be a jazz pianist gets a job in a nightclub, where he meets a saxophone player, Tyrone (Gregory Hines). Both the boy, Miles, and Tyrone have Tourette syndrome. While the Tyrone has worked to cover his disability, Miles and his mother are accepting of.

**Unbreakable** - 2000

Disability: osteogenesis imperfecta

Summary: When David Dunn (Bruce Willis) survives a major train wreck without a scratch, Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson) takes notice. Elijah, who has osteogenesis imperfecta, thinks he has found a person who is at the opposite end of his condition - someone who is never sick or injured.

**The Waterdance** - 1992

Disability: spinal cord injury

Summary: Author Joel Garcia (Eric Stoltz) breaks his neck while mountain climbing. In rehab, he meets two other men who are also coming to terms with their new disability.

**What's Eating Gilbert Grape** - 1993

Disability: autism

Summary: Gilbert (Johnny Depp) must care for his brother (Leonardo DiCaprio), who has autism, and his mother who is obese. Oscar nominations: Best supporting actor (DiCaprio)